

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/501,995
Response to Office Action Mailed November 17, 2005
Amendment Dated March 17, 2006

Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace the originally filed drawings with the Replacement Sheets attached in the Appendix. Fig. 1a and Fig. 1b have been amended to reflect the changes required by the Examiner. An annotated sheet of drawings showing these changes is attached.

Attachments: Annotated Sheet Showing Changes to Fig. 1a and Fig. 1b

2 Sheets of Formal Replacement Sheets of Figs. 1-8

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REMARKS

The office action of November 17, 2005 has been reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the recognition of allowable subject matter in claims 5 and 6. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for the Interview on March 7, 2006. Applicant has amended the application consistent with matters commonly agreed to during the interview and the application is now believed allowable in its entirety.

Specifically, Applicant has amended the labeling of certain figures in accordance with the Examiner's request. Applicant has also added new claims, each of the new claims containing one or more features commonly agreed to as not being taught or disclosed by the applied reference. Claims 1-6 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 11-21 have been added. Claims 7-9 have been withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-6 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skill in the art to make and/or use the invention, and under the

second paragraph of the same section for being indefinite and for failing to particularly point out the subject matter regarded as the invention. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-6 and 10, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Additionally, Applicant asserts new claims 11-21 satisfy all the requirements of 35 U.S.C §112.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Genick (U.S. Pat. No. 6,478,519 hereinafter Genick). Applicant has cancelled rejected claims 1-4, thereby rendering the rejection moot. New claims 11-21 are allowable over Genick either alone or in combination with the other references of record.

Genick describes a bolt retaining article having a tubular body that extends through a longitudinal axis. The tubular body has a plurality of concave sections and a plurality of convex sections as well as an engaging arm extending outwardly from the tubular body to secure the bolt retaining article to the structure. See *Summary and Figs. 1, 2 and 6*.

As agreed to in the interview, Genick fails to teach or disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. Claim 11 recites *inter alia*:

"...a plurality of axially and inwardly extending recesses (2, 3, 4, 5, 22, 23, 24, 25) extending over the entire length of the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34),

each of the recesses (2, 3, 4, 5, 22, 23, 24, 25) being formed by inwardly bent walls (6, 7, 35, 36) and a base (8) connecting those walls, the walls (6, 7, 35, 36) being generally radially oriented and configured such that when radial pressure is applied to the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34) upon introduction into the penetration (14), each recess moves closer to each other."

Here for example, Genick fails to teach or disclose a supporting sleeve "...with walls being generally radially oriented..." as recited in claim 11. Additionally, none of the references of record when combined with Genick cures this defect. For at least this reason, claim 11 is allowable.

Further, claims 12-20 depend from claim 11 and are allowable for all the reasons given above concerning claim 11, and further in view of their specific recitations that have not been shown to be in (or obvious from) the prior art.

Similarly, Genick fails to teach or disclose each and every element of claim 21. Claim 21 recites *inter alia*:

a plurality of axially and inwardly extending recesses (2, 3, 4, 5; 22, 23, 24, 25) extending over the entire length of the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34), each of the recesses (2, 3, 4, 5; 22, 23, 24, 25) being formed by three generally flat surfaces linked by two opposing elbow surfaces, two of the generally flat surfaces being inwardly bent walls (6, 7, 35, 36) and the third generally flat surface being a base (8) oriented between the opposing elbow surfaces, the walls (6, 7, 35, 36) being configured such that the recesses moves closer to each other when radial pressure is applied to the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34) upon introduction of the supporting sleeve into the penetration (14).

With respect to claim 21, Genick fails to teach or disclose, for example "recesses (2, 3, 4, 5; 22, 23, 24, 25) being formed by three generally flat surfaces linked by two opposing elbow surfaces, two of the generally flat surfaces being inwardly bent walls (6, 7, 35, 36) and the third generally flat surface being a base (8) oriented between the opposing elbow surfaces..." Again, none of the references of record when combined with Genick cures this defect and thus claim 21 is allowable.

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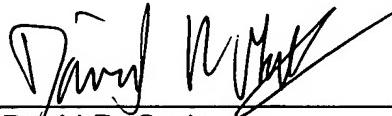
CONCLUSION

Applicant notes that a Petition for a one-month extension of time is being filed concurrently herewith. If any additional fees are required or if any overpayment is made, the Commission is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same. However, If for any reason the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance or there are any questions, the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (202) 824-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 17, 2006

By: 

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APPENDIX



Annotated Sheet

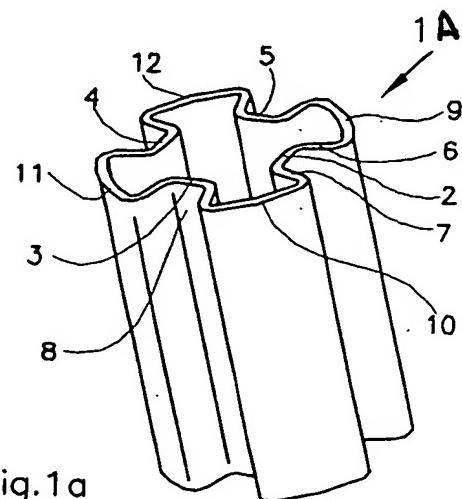


Fig. 1a

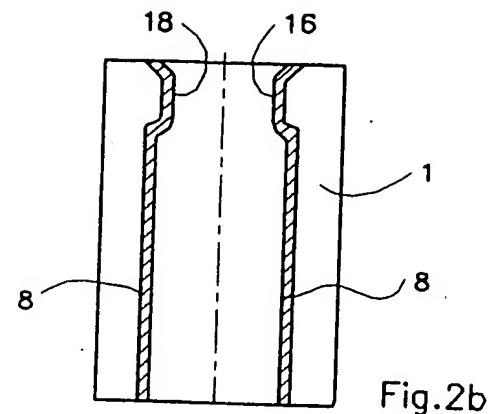


Fig. 2b

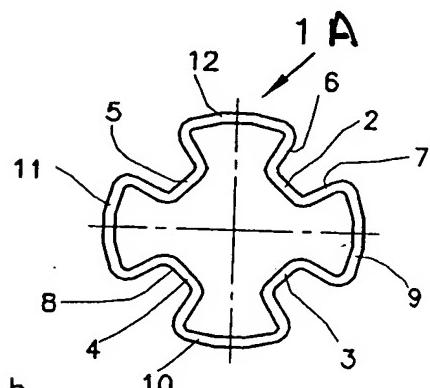


Fig. 1b

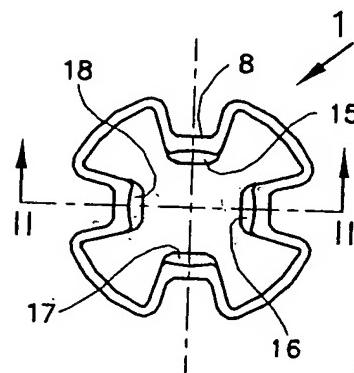


Fig. 2a

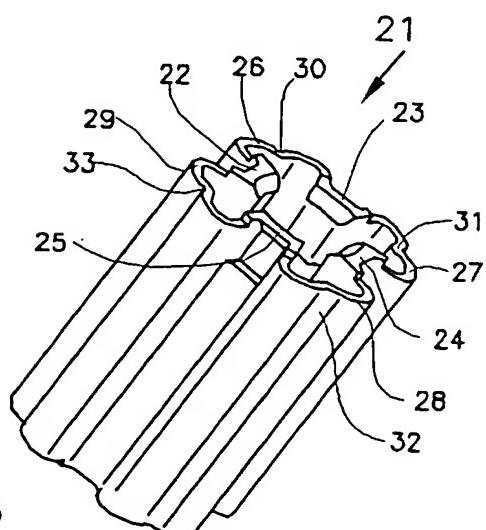


Fig. 3

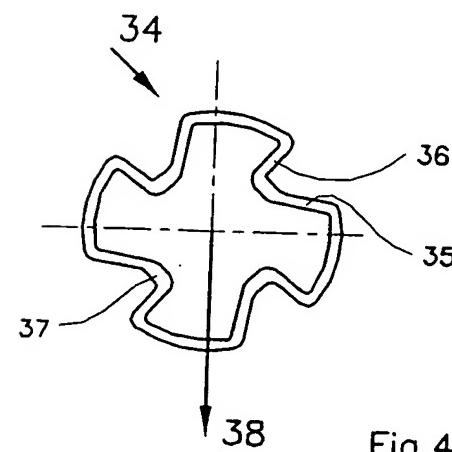


Fig. 4

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